

APPENDIX 24—MITIGATION GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

Mitigation options to avoid or reduce impacts to rare plants may be limited because of specific habitat requirements or lack of necessary biological information to make such an assessment. Most of the common techniques, such as compensation mitigation or habitat restoration, have proven largely unsuccessful, although seed banking is commonly performed to attempt off-site propagation. Mitigation plans for areas where impacts to these species cannot be avoided are designed to provide special management actions that minimize the overall impact to the species. However, because of the difficulties of providing successful mitigation options, impacts to special status plants are considered less than significant only if no net loss of population size or habitat quality results. “No net loss” is intended to mean that BLM must “ensure that [actions authorized, funded, or carried out by BLM] . . . affecting the habitat of special status species are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the objectives for managing those species. BLM shall not carry out any actions that would cause any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources or reduce the future management option for the species involved” (BLM Manual 6840).